

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. *(currently amended)* A slidably engageable fastening device ~~operable upon application of a relative shearing force,~~ comprising:
 - a first portion that includes:
 - a first base having a first basal surface;
 - and a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface;
 - and
 - a second portion, for slidably engaging with said first portion upon application of a relative shearing force with respect to said first and second portions, said second portion including:
 - a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface; said second base continuous between said fenestrations to stem segments,
 - each said stem segment extending away from said second basal surface to the top surface of an island spaced from said second basal surface,
 - each said island having a segmented edge comprising a plurality of second undercut segments, each said second undercut segment extending away from a sidewall of an adjacent said stem segment, so as to overhang at least part of a corresponding said fenestration;
 - wherein said undercut segments associated with each said island are separated by intervening said stem segments and include undersides spaced from said second basal surface, and wherein edges of said undercut segments are oblique to the edges of said undercut segments associated with adjacent said islands, and further wherein
 - ~~a plurality of stems each having a first end attached to said second base and a second end distal from said second basal surface; and~~
 - at least one second undercut segment attached to each of said plurality of stems at said second end and extending away from said each stem
 - said sidewalls and undersides are configured to provide a generally tapered an

aperture for **progressively** receiving adjacent pairs of said first undercut segments between **said sidewalls, adjacent pairs of said stems, said undersides, and the plane of said second basal surface, so as to connect and interlock said first portion with said second portion upon application of said relative shearing force.** ~~wherein ones of said second undercut segments are aligned, in a direction generally perpendicular to said second basal surface, with at least part of ones of said fenestrations.~~

2. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of two in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of apertures, each of said apertures associated with a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said plurality of apertures for receiving complementary pairs of said plurality of second undercut segments.

3. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of three in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of three apertures and a plurality of aperture openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of three apertures, each of said sets of three apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a corresponding set of three adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of three apertures for receiving complementary sets of three of said plurality of second undercut segments.

4. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of four in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of four apertures and a plurality of aperture openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of four apertures, each of said sets of four apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a corresponding set of four adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of four apertures for receiving complementary sets of four of said plurality of second undercut segments.

5. *(presently amended)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said segmented edges of said islands are configured in a generally hexagonal disposition and said islands are arrayed to provide a plurality of generally hexagonal aperture openings between adjacent groups of three said islands, said aperture openings for accepting sets of at least three said first undercut segments prior to application of said relative shearing force.

~~plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of six in a generally hexagonal disposition and said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in sets of three, said first portion further comprising sets of three apertures each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of three first undercut segments and a plurality of aperture openings corresponding to ones of said sets of three apertures, said sets of three apertures for receiving complementary sets of three of said plurality of second undercut segments.~~

6. *(canceled)*

7. *(presently amended)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of second undercut segments are arranged in groups of two arrayed in rows that include a first row, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, said second portion further comprising a plurality of islands each having an island top surface, each of said pairs associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of islands, further wherein a portion of said second basal surface corresponding to said first row is generally coplanar with one of said island top surfaces corresponding to said second row and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row by a plurality of said stem segments ~~ones of said plurality of stems.~~

8. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 1, wherein ones of said stem segments associated with each said island are conjoined into contiguous stems and wherein said undercut segments extend away from sidewalls of

said stems. ~~stems are associated with at least two of said second undercut segments.~~

9. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 8 1, wherein ones of said stems are associated with at least three of said second undercut segments.

10. ***(withdrawn)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and said second basal surface includes a means for diverting said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said plurality of apertures.

11. ***(withdrawn)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and said second basal surface includes a diverting structure that directs said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said plurality of apertures.

12. ***(currently amended)*** A slidingly engageable fastening device operable upon application of a relative shearing force, including:

a first portion comprising: **at least one first island spaced from a first base;**

and a second portion comprising:

a plurality of second islands each including:

a top surface with a segmented edge,

a plurality of undercut segments with undersides

extending to said segmented edge,

and a plurality of stem segments located between

said undercut segments;

and a fenestrated second base structure which includes:

a basal surface and a plurality of fenestrations,

with sectors of said second base structure extending

between said fenestrations and connecting with said
stem segments;

wherein said stem segments extend away from said basal surface to said top
surface, and said undercut segments are spaced from said basal surface and
extend away from sidewalls of said stem segments so as to overhang
corresponding said fenestrations;
and further wherein said sidewalls of said stem segments and said undersides
of said undercut segments effect a plurality of generally tapered apertures
between said undersides and the plane of said basal surface for progressively
receiving and slidably engaging with said at least one first island upon
application of said relative shearing force.

~~a first base having a first basal surface; and
at least one first island attached to said first base, said at least one first
island having at least one undercut segment spaced from said first
basal surface; and
a second portion for slidably engaging with said first portion upon
application of a relative shearing force with respect to said first and
second portions, said second portion including:
a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal
surface;
a plurality of second islands attached to said second base and defining at
least one generally tapered aperture for receiving said at least one
first island;
wherein said second islands have undercut segments, corresponding with
at least part of ones of said plurality of fenestrations, attached to said
second base by at least one stem.~~

13. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent

ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

14. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

15. ***(presently amended)*** A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

16. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first island and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands, and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second ~~apertures~~ **aperture openings** each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

17. *(canceled)*

18. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each arrayed in rows that include a first row, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, ones of said first and second pluralities of islands each having an island top surface, further wherein a portion of said second basal surface corresponding to said first row is generally coplanar with one of said island top surfaces corresponding to said second row and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row.

19. *(currently amended)* A double-sided interlocking fastening device, comprising:
a base having a first basal surface and an opposing second basal surface;
a plurality of first islands with segmented edges and undercut segments attached to said base and spaced extending away from said first basal surface by stem segments located between said undercut segments ;
a plurality of second islands attached to said base and spaced extending away from said second basal surface by stem segments located between undercut segments of said second islands generally opposite said plurality of first islands;
wherein sets of two laterally adjacent said first islands and sets of two laterally adjacent said second islands each define apertures for receiving and slidingly engaging with others of said islands ~~one another~~.

20. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally bilateral disposition, said plurality of first islands configured to define first ~~portion further comprising~~ a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands defining second ~~portion further comprising a~~

plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

21. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said **plurality of first islands defining first portion** ~~further comprising~~ a plurality of first apertures each defined by ~~three~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said **plurality of second islands defining** ~~second portion further comprising~~ a plurality of second apertures each defined by ~~three~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

22. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said **plurality of first islands defining first portion** ~~further comprising~~ a plurality of first apertures each defined by ~~four~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said **plurality of second islands defining** ~~second portion further comprising~~ a plurality of second apertures each defined by ~~four~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

23. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said **plurality of first islands defining first portion** ~~further comprising~~ a plurality of first apertures each defined by ~~three~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said **plurality of second islands defining** ~~second portion further comprising~~ a plurality of second apertures each defined by ~~three~~ corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

24. *(canceled)*

25. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener, comprising:

a first portion that includes:

a base having a first basal surface and a second basal surface opposite said first basal surface; and

a plurality of first islands attached to said base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein sets of two adjacent said first islands each define an aperture for receiving and slidingly engaging with a plurality of second islands; and

a plurality of attachment devices engaging said first portion and extending away from said second basal surface.

26. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of nail-like devices.

27. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of riveting devices.

28. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of expansion devices.

29. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of friction fitting devices.

30. **(withdrawn)**A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of folding devices.

31. **(withdrawn)**A fastening device secured to a substrate material, comprising:

a first portion that includes:

a first base having a first basal surface and a second basal surface spaced from said first basal surface; and

a plurality of first islands attached to said first base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein adjacent pairs of said plurality of first islands each define an aperture for receiving, and interlocking with, a plurality of second islands; and
a backing structure for confronting said second basal surface and being attachable to said first portion, said backing structure for securing said first portion to the substrate material when said backing structure is attached to said first portion.

32. *(withdrawn)* A fastening device as in claim 31, wherein ones of said first plurality of islands include receptors having corresponding receptor openings located on said second basal surface and wherein said backing structure comprises a set of pins corresponding to said receptors.

33. *(currently amended)* An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:

a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and

a plurality of second islands , each said island comprising a plurality of undercut segments spaced from said basal surface and overhanging corresponding fenestrations, said undercut segments separated by stem segments so as to effect an island top surface with a segmented edge attached to said base by said stem segments;

thereby and defining a plurality of apertures for receiving said ~~the~~ plurality of first islands, each of said plurality of second islands including at least three undercut segments spaced from one another, wherein said undercut segments are aligned in a direction perpendicular to said basal surface with at least part of ones of said fenestrations.

34. *(currently amended)* An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:

a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and

a plurality of second islands attached to said base and defining a plurality of

generally tapered apertures between adjacent pairs of said islands and the plane of said basal surface for receiving said the plurality of first islands, said plurality of second islands including undercut segments spaced from one another by intermediary stem segments extending away from said base ; wherein at least two of said undercut segments extend over each of at least some of said plurality of fenestrations.

Claims 35-43 (Canceled)

44. *(currently amended)* A product, comprising:
a slidably engagable fastener that includes:
a first portion comprising:
a first base having a first basal surface; and
a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface; and
a second portion for slidably interlocking with said first portion upon application of a force to one of said first and second portions in a direction generally parallel to said first basal surface, said second portion including:
a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface;
a plurality of stems, each having a first end attached to said second base at a location between adjacent said fenestrations and a second end distal from said second basal surface located between adjacent second undercut segments extending away from sidewalls of said stems over at least part of corresponding said fenestrations,
thereby defining a plurality of generally tapered apertures for receiving said first undercut segments upon application of said force.
; and
~~at least one second undercut segment attached to each of said plurality of stems at said second end and extending away from said each stem.~~

45. *(currently amended)* A product as in claim 44, further comprising a component having a third portion and a fourth portion spaced from said third

portion, said third portion containing said first portion and said fourth portion containing said second portion.

46. *(original)* A product as in claim 45, wherein said component includes an elastic section located between said third and fourth portions.

47. *(original)* A product as in claim 44, comprising two or more components wherein said first and second portions are located on diverse ones of said two or more components.

48. *(currently amended)* A method of fastening two portions comprising: providing a first portion that includes:

a first base, and

a first plurality of first islands each having at least one undercut surface spaced from said first base;

providing a second portion that includes:

a fenestrated base with a plurality of fenestrations, and

a second plurality of islands, each said island having at least ~~two~~ one undercut surfaces separated by stem segments and spaced from said base opposite at least part of ones of said fenestrations so as to define a plurality of generally tapered apertures between said stem segments and said undercut surfaces of adjacent pairs of said second islands;

arranging said first and second portions so that at least one of said first islands is aligned with at least one of said apertures; and

applying a relative shearing force to said first and second portions so as to cause said islands to be slidingly engaged with said apertures.

49. *(cancelled)*

50. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 1, wherein the top surfaces of said islands and said second basal surface are visible from a first location

remote from said top surfaces, and said undercut segments and a third basal surface, opposite said second basal surface, are visible from a second location remote from said second surface. ~~at least said second portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.~~

51. *(cancelled)*

52. *(currently amended)* A device as in claim 19 wherein the top surfaces of said first islands, said first basal surface, and undersides of said second islands are visible from a first location remote from said first islands; and the top surfaces of said second islands, said second basal surface, and undersides of said first islands are visible from a second location remote from said second islands. ~~produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.~~

53- 59 *(canceled)*

60. (new) A product as in claim 44, wherein said first portion and said second portion are integral components of a singular structural entity.

61. (new) A product as in claim 44, wherein said first basal surface is opposite said second basal surface and said first portion is located remote from said second portion.

62. (new) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular thermoplastic entity.

63. (new) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular metal entity.

64. (new) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular fibrous material.

65. (new) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a composite material.

66. (new) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular thermoset
plastic entity.

END OF AMENDED CLAIMS